

REMARKS

The present amendment is being presented under 37 CFR § 1.312 to correct a couple minor informalities introduced into claims 16, 18, and hence make the claims more properly definite under 35 USC 112 and to cancel claims 19-20 which do not further limit claim 16 as amended.

Upon entry of the present Amendment-B, the claims in the application are claims 1-18, of which claims 1, 12 and 16 are independent.

Amendments

In the amendments: claim 16 has been amended to consistently define that the flow cell includes second passages (plural) extending continuously from the first passage, that the central axis of the first passage substantially corresponds to an optical axis of the condensers, and that a width of the second passages is greater than a width of the first passage so as not to impede the scattered light from entering ~~[[an]]~~ outmost peripheral portions of the condensers; while claim 18 is amended to consistently define that the second passages are disposed substantially perpendicular to the first passage and claims 19-20 are canceled because they do not further limit claim 18.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original application, do not introduce any new issues for consideration by the Examiner, and are only presented to make the claim language internally consistent, and hence more definite. Applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments and new claims do not introduce any new matter into the application.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment under 37 CFR 1.312.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, applicant respectfully requests that he telephonically contact applicant's undersigned representative to expeditiously resolve prosecution of the application.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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